

Message Text

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PAGE 01 GENEVA 00244 161549Z

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ACTION ORM-03

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 IO-14 ISO-00 SR-02 SCA-01 CIAE-00

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FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3395

INFO AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

UNCLAS GENEVA 244

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, CI, GW, SREF

SUBJ: REFUGEES IN CHILE

1. DEPUTY UNHCR MACE CALLED AT MISSION TODAY FOR PURPOSE DISCUSSING REFUGEE PROBLEM CHILE AND TO ENCOURAGE USG TO ACCEPT FAIR SHARE OF REMAINING REFUGEES THAT COUNTRY. MACE ALSO VISITING VARIOUS OTHER MISSIONS GENEVA REPRESENTING PROSPECTIVE REFUGEE RECEIVING COUNTRIES.

2. ACCORDING MACE, CURRENT SITUATION CHILE AS FOLLOWS:
OF TOTAL 3,000 REFUGEES REGISTERED FOR RESETTLEMENT 1,450 HAVE DEPARTED, 350 HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED FOR RESETTLEMENT AND ARE AWAITING DEPARTURE, 250 ARE IN ADVANCED STAGE OF RESETTLEMENT PROCESSING AND EXPECTED TO BE ACCEPTED SOON AND 950 ARE AWAITING RESETTLEMENT OPPORTUNITIES. MACE OBSERVED THAT WHILE CERTAIN OPEN-ENDED OFFERS OF RESETTLEMENT OPPORTUNITIES LIKE THOSE OF CANADA, GDR, FRG, AND FRANCE MAY SERVE TO DECREASE THE BACKLOG (950), THIS EXPECTED BE OFFSET TO SOME EXTENT OWING FACT THAT SOME ADDITIONAL REFUGEES STILL BEING REGISTERED.

3. MACE REPORTED THAT ANXIETY AMONG REMAINING REFUGEES CHILE IS MOUNTING. HE SAID OPES OF REFUGEES LIFTED IN OCTOBER-NOVEMBER WHEN SELECTION FOR FINLAND, FRANCE, THE NETHERLANDS, SWEDEN AND SWITZERLAND WAS IN FULL SWING, HOWEVER, WITH DECREASED RESETTLEMENT ACTIVITY IN MEAN TIME DETERIORATION
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PAGE 02 GENEVA 00244 161549Z

OF REFUGEES MORALE HAS RESULTED.

4. MACE NOTED THAT THE APPROVED DURATION OF THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR AID TO REFUGEES, THE PIVOTAL ORGANIZATION IN CHILE, DEALING WITH REFUGEES UNDER UNHCR MANDATE, WHICH WAS TO EXPIRE ON JANUARY 3, 1974 HAS BEEN EXTENDED TO FEBRUARY 3, 1974. REFLECTING THE HIGH COMMISSIONER'S CONCERN, MACE SAID IT WAS OF UTMOST IMPORTANCE THAT ENOUGH OFFERS OF RESETTLEMENT OPPORTUNITIES BE FORTHCOMING BY FEBRUARY 3 DATELINE TO COVER THE 950 REMAINING REFUGEES IN CHILE.

5. MISOFF EXPLAINED TO MACE THAT USG PREPARED GIVE SYMPATHETIC CONSIDERATION ON INDIVIDUAL CASE BASIS TO APPLICATIONS REFERRED TO AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO BY UNHCR AND THAT IN FACT CERTAIN CASES HAD ALREADY BEEN ACCEPTED FOR PAROLE INTO USA.

MISOFF FURTHER EXPRESSED UNDERSTANDING THAT AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO PRESENTLY HAS NUMBER OF ADDITIONAL CASES IN ACTIVE PROCESSING. NONETHELESS, MISOFF ASSURED MACE THAT HIGH COMMISSIONER'S CONCERN AND RENEWED APPEAL WOULD BE CONVEYED TO DEPARTMENT WITHOUT DELAY.

6. PLEASE ADVISE WHAT ADDITIONAL ADVICE, IF ANY, SHOULD BE CONVEYED TO UNHCR.BASSIN

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